

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

January 2012 – Week 1

Air Date: January 1 – January 7 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: YANKEE DOODLE SHOOTIN’

JANUARY 1880 AND A SONG LEADS TO A SHOOTIN’.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

NEW YEARS DAY, 1880. MOTLEY COUNTY ALONG THE PEASE RIVER. AFTER A LONG HARD DAY OF WORKING CATTLE, COWBOYS JIM BARBEE AND JIM HARKEY ARE SETTLIN’ DOWN FOR SUPPER.

HARKEY STARTS TO SING “YANKEE DOODLE”. BARBEE, APPARENTLY NOT A FAN OF THE TUNE, THREATENS TO SHOOT HIM UNLESS HE STOPS. AN ARGUMENT ENSUES.

EIGHT GUNSHOTS LATER JIM HARKEY LAY DEAD AND BARBEE IS WOUNDED. BARBEE SENDS FOR HELP, THEN DIES.

THE TWO ARE BURIED SIDE BY SIDE IN A SHALLOW GRAVE. THE STORY, HOWEVER, LIVES ON.

THE YANKEE DOODLE SHOOTOUT HAPPENDED 132 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TEXAS!

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Marisue Potts, "COTTONWOOD MOTT LINE CAMP," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/apc10>), accessed December 15, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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